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LB 48, 92

Nelson has delivered the "quid." Twenty million dollars...billion dollars in state assistance was the "pro" of the "pro quo." The "quo" part will be what we're trying to do here to rescue this Rural Development Commission. I handed out a transcript a few days ago to document my strenuous opposition to taking this commission out of statute. And the only reason I yielded and removed opposition and, in fact, voted for that bill was because I was persuaded that the interested parties, meaning those in the rural areas who have a genuine interest in what befalls the citizens in that part of the state, believed that by taking this language out of the statute and seeking nonprofit status they would be in a position to seek these grants and obtain money which otherwise they would not have. So with that being a conviction that I developed, I voted for the bill. None of us likes to be snookered. I certainly don't like to be. And for the Governor to have undermined this effort knowing that the bill, LB 92, was allowed to proceed because of the understanding that grants would be perceived...grants would be sought, for the Governor to undermine that effort is inexcusable. At first, I was doing this because I think the rural sector needs assistance from the Legislature. In that transcript, you will see where I mentioned my opposition to various sham programs that the Legislature talked about that the Governor advocated that I opposed because they created the appearance that something was being done when, in fact, nothing concrete would result, that the programs were so impractical that never would they result in a beneficial result to the rural community. This commission offers a concrete step in that direction. We've all heard the statement that the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. This is the first step. I'm asking that you first adopt this little amendment that I am discussing at this point which would tighten up some language in the underlying amendment. But any questions that you have to me about any part of the little amendment that I'm discussing now, the underlying amendment which would gut the bill and revive the commission, I am prepared to do my best to answer forthrightly and completely. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening on FA1392, which is an amendment to AM2081 offered by Senator Chambers to LB 48. Open for discussion on FA1392,